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Dancers' Group Announces 2017 Lighting Artists for Dance Grant Recipients

Supporting the progress of lighting design for dance in the San Francisco Bay Area.

SAN FRANCISCO—Dancers' Group, a service and presenting organization in the San Francisco Bay Area, announces the 10th annual grant awards to support lighting designers working in the field of dance. The **Lighting Artists in Dance (LAD)** program provides lighting designers, working with choreographers and dance companies, access to funds that will support their artistic collaborations, which culminate in the creation of dance performances taking place in the Bay Area.

To commemorate a decade of supporting lighting designers, Dancers' Group received additional support enabling them to increase the pool of funds from \$12,000 to \$20,000 in grants. "Over the past ten years this program has provided 72 grants totaling \$128,000 to lighting designers collaborating on an amazing range of performance projects," says Executive Director Wayne Hazzard. "Dancers' Group is honored to add needed resources for our dynamic dance artists and designers."

The 2017 grantees are:

Allen Willner, lighting designer for **Smith/Wymore Disappearing Acts**
Jose Maria Francos, lighting designer for **NAKA Dance Theater**
Delayne Medoff, lighting designer for **detour dance**
Alexander V. Nichols, lighting designer for **ODC**
David Robertson, lighting designer for **Margaret Jenkins Dance Company**
Matthew Antaky, lighting designer for **Amy Seiwert's Imagery**
Jim French, lighting designer for **BANDALOO**
Jack Beuttler, lighting designer for **punkkiCo**
Heather Basarab, lighting designer for **Peter & Co.**

A panel of regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the grant recipients. The panel consisted of lighting designers **Darl Andrew Packard** and **Matthew Cohen**, and choreographer **Katharine Hawthorne**.

The LAD program is not intended to underwrite general production costs, but rather to support projects that encourage an active interaction between lighting designers and their dance partners.

2017 Recipient Awards and Projects

Allen Willner, lighting designer for **Smith/Wymore Disappearing Acts**
(Awarded: \$2,500)
Project Name: *Six Degrees of Freedom*
Performance Timeframe: December 2017
Venue: ODC Theater, SF

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Six Degrees of Freedom is a new evening length work to be performed at ODC Theater. Featuring six performers in a tightly confined space, this physical theater work continues SWDA's ongoing interest in creating technologically augmented live performance. Most of the performance will take place in what appears to be a deconstructed virtual reality cave akin to the infamous holodeck of Star Trek fame.

Jose Maria Francos, lighting designer for **NAKA Dance Theater**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *BUSCARTE*

Performance Timeframe: October 2017

Venue: Joe Goode Annex, SF

BUSCARTE is a multidisciplinary performance that uses the story of the 43 disappeared students from Ayotzinapa Teachers College in Mexico as a point of departure. The work contemplates the effect of the trauma of forced disappearance on ever-widening circles in the community. An inquiry of reality and fiction, experimentation and matter-of-facts, *BUSCARTE* is an elegy, a cathartic dance, a tapestry of motions and emotions reflective of the times in which we live, and a quest to make visible that which cannot be looked at directly.

Delayne Medoff, lighting designer for **detour dance**

(Awarded: \$2,500)

Project Name: *FUGUE*

Performance Timeframe: December 2017

Venue: Mission District, SF

In December 2017, detour dance will premiere *FUGUE*, a site-specific multidisciplinary performance in the streets and buildings of San Francisco's Mission District. *FUGUE* is a foray into cultural amnesia and nostalgia, featuring forgotten stories of Queers, people of color, and long-time SF residents.

Alexander V. Nichols, lighting designer for **ODC**

(Awarded: \$2,500)

Project Name: *Trace Memory*

Performance Timeframe: March 2018

Venue: YBCA Theater, SF

Trace Memory, with Artistic Director Brenda Way, lighting designer Alex Nichols, painter Doug Argue and composer David Lang, is the latest in Way's efforts to bring artistic process to the stage. This work will trace the transformation of a modern classic into an abstract contemporary version of itself, from blank canvas to 3-dimensional work, based on Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)*, once considered immoral for its confrontational manner, African influence and unconventional feminine form.

David Robertson, lighting designer for **Margaret Jenkins Dance Company**

(Awarded: \$2,500)

Project Name: *Never Separate*

Performance Timeframe: October 2017

Venue: Atrium Theater and Education Studio at the Wilsey Center, SF

The Margaret Jenkins Dance Company will premiere a new work, *Never Separate* in October 2017 at the new War Memorial's Wilsey Center, with a portable lighting schematic being the focus. The work has two components: "Site Series (Inside Outside)" performed in the Education Studio, followed by the premiere of *Never Separate* in The Atrium Theater. These two spaces, each intimate in their own way, will allow the Company to perform in the round and in a more theatrical setting within one evening.

Matthew Antaky, lighting designer for **Amy Seiwert's Imagery**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *Other View*



Performance Timeframe: Summer 2018
Venue: Z Space, SF

In times of divisive politics, how can we see multiple sides of the same reality? *Other View* follows the same story from the perspective of two protagonists. Using Z Space in a non-traditional format we place audiences on two sides, switching during intermission. The set is bisected in the middle with a door through which the dancers pass. Dancers perform the same piece twice, showing the audience where the story intertwines, and where decisions made by a character have far rippling effects.

Jim French, lighting designer for **BANDALOO**

(Awarded: \$2,000)
Project Name: *New Work (untitled)*
Performance Timeframe: October 2018
Venue: Great Wall of Oakland, Oakland

Choreographer Amelia Rudolph with Assistant Artistic Director Melecio Estrella and Lighting Designer Jim French, will make a new 20 minute work to a score by Gabriel Prokofiev. The piece reimagines dance using rigging to both constrain and set free the dancers. Rudolph will experiment with the interaction between dancers and the gravitational umbilical cord of a rope, blurring the lines between traditional gravity-bound and harness-assisted movement, exploring the notions of dependence and recovery.

Jack Beuttler, lighting designer for **punkkiCo**

(Awarded: \$2,000)
Project Name: *in-sect* (working title)
Performance Timeframe: March 2018
Venue: ODC Theater, SF

The captured moment of a peculiar sect that is dominated by strong female energy. The foundation for this work is to tell the story with pictures/scenes on stage that has been created in intense collaboration with movement, light, and costume and set design.

Heather Basarab, lighting designer for **Peter & Co.**

(Awarded: \$2,000)
Project Name: *Space Speaks*
Performance Timeframe: February 2018
Venue: Catharine Clark Gallery, SF

Space Speaks is an evening-length immersive gallery installation bridging the personal and public boundaries of shared physical space. As the political climate verges on the brink of unrest, we find ourselves at a critical point where our most basic human need for unified community rises to the surface. Five dancers will interact with a score by Vancouver-based electronic ambient sound artist Scott Morgan and lighting design by Heather Basarab.

About Dancers' Group

Dancers' Group promotes the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, we serve San Francisco Bay Area artists, the dance community and audiences through programs and services that are as collaborative and innovative as the creative process. As a dance service organization for the second largest dance community in the country, Dancers' Group's many programs help artists make work, build audiences, and connect with their peers and the community.

For more info please visit: dancersgroup.org

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